



## ASSUMING LEADERSHIP

Chris Botsko, photo at left, receives his class ring and bible from Headmaster Mike Deely at the Junior Ring Mass on April 27.

During the ceremony, the junior class not only accept their class rings and the gift from the school of a bible, but they symbolically accept leadership of the school from the outgoing senior class.

Several members of the Class of 2018, photo above, show off their new class rings.



### SOCIAL MEDIA:



POPE JOHN PAUL II  
HIGH SCHOOL



JPII ALUMNI PAGE



ATHLETICS



SCHOOL



@JPIIKNIGHTS

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## Registration open for Camp JPPI

Our summer camp program, Camp JPPI 2017, is now open for registration!

Camp JPPI offers summer fun for kids age 5-18 the weeks of June 5-9, June 12-16, June 19-23, and June 26-30. Camps run Monday-Friday in two sessions: 9 a.m.-noon and 12:30-3:30 p.m. Before care, after care, and meal plans are also available as well as the Pick Four Discount for those who sign up for four half-day camps.

New camps this year include Dance Camp, Track Camp, several art camps including Clay Creations, Making the Ordinary Extraordinary, and DIY Design Painting, Rock and Roll History, Model United Nations and Debating, and Ready ... Set .... Go Algebra. With 40 camps to choose from, there is something available for every age and every interest!

Interested parents and campers should check out the camp brochure and online registration at: <http://jp2hs.org/campus-life/extra-curricular-programs/camp-jpii/>. Please direct any questions to Mr. Paul Saboe, Camp JPPI Director, at [paul.saboe@jp2hs.org](mailto:paul.saboe@jp2hs.org).

## JPPI TEACHER SELECTED FOR 2017 NEH SUMMER SEMINAR

Paul Saboe, one of Pope John Paul II High School's founding teachers, has been selected to participate this summer in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar on "Muslim American Identities, Past and Present" at Indiana University.

One of the hallmarks of the JPPI faculty is their continued focus on furthering their own formal education as a means of improving and inspiring their teaching in the classroom. Mr. Saboe has embraced this practice and has been an active participant in NEH summer programs, including the 2006 Summer Seminar on "Churchill in America," the 2007 Summer Seminar on "The American South: Geography and Culture," and the 2014 Landmarks Workshop on "Abraham Lincoln and the Forging of Modern America."

National Endowment for the Humanities summer programs are by application only and are very competitive. In the last five years, there was an average of almost 150 applications per institute with only 16 teachers selected to participate in each Summer Seminar and only 36 selected to participate in each Landmarks Workshop. Despite the difficulty of being selected, Mr. Saboe has been selected for each of the NEH workshops to which he has applied.

For three weeks this summer, Mr. Saboe will live and work on the campus of Indiana University, reading and engaging in lively discourse on 30 related primary source documents, visiting and experiencing services at two mosques, and designing and presenting a lesson plan to his fellow participants that incorporates the seminar material into his own teaching.

"Coming from a Catholic upbringing and perspective, I am excited to be able to learn firsthand what it means to be a Muslim in America and how those who practice the Muslim faith have shaped and been shaped by the American experience," said Mr. Saboe.

The National Endowment for the Humanities seminar mirrors



Paul Saboe, a history teacher at Pope John Paul II High School, helps junior Clarie Adcox with her school work. Saboe has been selected for the 2017 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar on "Muslim American Identities, Past and Present" at Indiana University.

the approach of JPPI's freshman World History course with its emphasis on primary source documents as a means of teaching students how to be true historians. In addition, the World History course teaches students about the rise of Islam as well as the emergence of the Zionist and the Arab Nationalism movements as crucial to understanding the rise of the modern Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"The JPPI History Department believes that the best approach to studying history is to learn how to be a historian, basing our understanding and analysis on evidence presented in primary source documents," said Mr. Saboe. "This seminar will expand the documents that the freshmen will have access to in our World History course."

## MR. THOMAS SACRIFICES HAIR FOR GREGORY

When theology teacher and House of Gregory faculty advisor Brian Thomas promised at the beginning of the year to shave his head if the House of Gregory finished third or above in the competition to win the House Cup, he thought he was pretty safe. But the Knights in the House of Gregory outperformed his greatest expectations and won the Cup. So on May 12, in front of the whole school, he had his head shaved by House President Madeline Barber, left, and Vice President Ryan Duffin. Way to go House of Gregory!





### SURF'S UP

The Class of 2017 enjoyed the annual Surf's Up day on April 27. The senior class enjoyed a day of fun in the sun on campus as they drew closer to their graduation on May 20. In the above photo, Mallory Davenport, left, and Caroline Alfieri, pose for a photo. Alexis Williams is in the background. Charlsi Jayne Patterson, photo below, enjoys some sunbathing, while Elizabeth Perrone, photo at right, slides down the inflatable slide.



## JPII SENIORS SIGN TO CONTINUE ATHLETIC CAREERS IN COLLEGE

Seven seniors at Pope John Paul II High School recently celebrated their opportunities to continue their athletic careers in college. Six of them signed during a ceremony at the school on April 12 and the seventh on Friday, May 12.

■ Larabeth Case will swim for Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. During her four years swimming for JPII, Case was a four-time state qualifier and has medaled numerous times. She was an instrumental point scorer, which helped the JPII women's team win their division for the past two years and finish undefeated this year. She also is an Academic All American, a recognition that only about 2 percent of high school swimmers achieve.

Case is the daughter of Wendy and Jeff Case.

A competitive swimmer since age 4, Case is currently practicing with Nashville Athletic Club on average of 18-20 hours each week. At JPII, Case served as co-editor of the "Herald on the Hill," a Lead Ambassador and a peer mentor for the Hand in Hand Options Program.

Trinity University is an NCAA Division III program and a member of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.

■ Elijah Patrick, one of JPII's most decorated swimmers ever, will continue his swimming career at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. Patrick has been a competitive swimmer since age 6 and is a four time international qualifier, a senior national qualifier, and a three time JPII high school state qualifier, with numerous individual medals. He led JPII to a 12th place finish overall at the state meet this year. He swam for JPII for three years, and holds school records in the 200 freestyle, 100 butterfly, and the 200 medley relay.

When not competing, Patrick, who is the son of Rebecca and Lee Patrick, teaches swimming lessons and volunteers at Second Harvest food bank and Special Olympics.

Kenyon College is one of the premier liberal arts colleges in the country, and while a student there, Patrick plans to study molecular biology and neuroscience with hopes of becoming a physician. Kenyon is an NCAA Division III program and a member of the North Coast Athletic Conference.

■ Jack Schumacher has signed to play football for Washington University in St. Louis. A starter at defensive end for the Knights, Schumacher was named to the All-Region team and was second on the team in total tackles and first in sacks and tackles for loss. Last fall, he was a key contributor to the first winning season for JPII football in 10 years.

He is the son of Suzie and Mark Schumacher and is a parishioner at



Larabeth Case



Elijah Patrick



Jack Schumacher



C.J. Laws

Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville.

Schumacher has been a success in the classroom as well as on the football field. He and teammate Justin Humphries were both named National Merit Scholarship finalists this year, putting him among the top 1 percent of high school seniors across the country.

"We tell our guys all the time that when you take care of business off the field and in the classroom, your opportunities expand tenfold to compete athletically at the next level," said JPII head football coach Justin Geisinger. "Today, Jack Schumacher is a perfect example of that. Here is a young man that because of his outstanding academic achievement paired with his relentless work ethic and passion on the football field has given him the opportunity to attend and compete at a top-20 academic institution and one of the best overall universities in the country."

Washington University is an NCAA Division III program and a member of the University Athletic Association.

■ C.J. Laws, the son of Jennifer and Charles Laws, signed to play football for Rhodes College in Memphis.

As a wide receiver, defensive back and kick returner for JPII, Laws capped off his high school football career with several accomplishments. Several publications named him to the Division II-AA All State team and he was named to the Division II-AA East/Middle All Region team. His senior year, Laws led the team in receiving yards and return yards. He was number one among the states' Division II programs in average receptions per game. He also was fourth in the state in average yards per catch and fifth in all-purpose yards.

"He was simply one of the most productive players in the state in just about as competitive of a league at the prep level that you can get in the country," Geisinger said.

"Rhodes will be getting a stellar athlete and competitor, but more importantly a solid young man and teammate," Geisinger said. "CJ leads by example, is a man a few words, but when it comes down to business, he simply lets his competitive edge and his play do the talking."

Laws was a multi-sport athlete at JPII. Besides football, he has played basketball and baseball all four years at JPII.

Rhodes College is an NCAA Division III program and a member of the Southern Athletic Association.

■ Nate Pianto, the son of Candice and Chris Pianto, became the fifth

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## JPII SENIORS SIGN TO CONTINUE ATHLETIC CAREERS IN COLLEGE

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member of the JPII baseball team to sign a scholarship to play baseball collegiately. Pianto, a pitcher and a three-year member of the JPII varsity, signed to play for Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky, an NCAA Division I program and a member of the Ohio Valley Conference.

“Nate Pianto is a model student, baseball player, multi-sport athlete, brother, and young man,” said JPII baseball coach Chris Parker. “All of his hard work and dedication to the game and our program has paid off for him as he will continue his baseball career at the next level at Murray State University.”

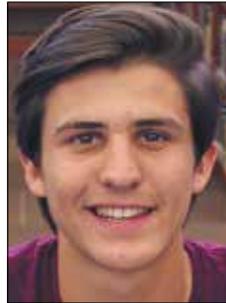


Nate Pianto

Pianto also was a member of the JPII swim team.

■ David Thomas, the son of Alyson and Craig Thomas and a parishioner at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville, has signed to play lacrosse at Eastern University, near Philadelphia, an NCAA Division III school in the Middle Atlantic Conference.

“David Thomas is a dynamic lacrosse player who has excelled at multiple positions during his time at JPII. Through hard work and a high compete level, he has shown impressive year-to-year improvements,” said JPII men’s lacrosse coach Bob Page. “A team captain, David embraces playing against the best defensive players in the state of Tennessee and is a team leader in all offensive metrics: goals, assists, shots, etc. He creates match-up problems every game due to his size, strength, deceptive quickness and stick skills. These attributes and a solid academic record at JPII will allow him to prosper at the college



David Thomas

level.”

Beyond lacrosse, Thomas has been a key member of the nationally ranked Model UN team at JPII.

“He leaves a laudable body of work at JPII and is a member of a core group of players that has enabled JPII lacrosse to be consistently competitive state-wide,” Page said.

■ Caroline Leonard, the daughter of Kathleen and Ed Leonard, on Friday, May 12, signed to play women’s lacrosse at St. Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana.



Caroline Leonard

In her senior year, Leonard was a captain of both the Lady Knights lacrosse team the Knights Stars dance team at JPII. She led the dance team to a TSSAA state championship in Hip-Hop this year.

Leonard is a member of National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, and House of Peter Leadership at JPII. This year, she also took four AP classes. “She balanced all of this while training as a competitive dancer at Smartt Steps. During her free time, Caroline volunteered in her community and spent time with her family,” said Mary Leonard, Caroline’s sister and lacrosse coach at JPII.

“Caroline is a raw athlete. She was a phenomenal leader of the lacrosse team, never gave up in any game, and played with heart every day,” Mary Leonard said.

St. Mary’s College is a Catholic women’s college and competes in the NCAA Division III as a member of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association. At St. Mary’s, Caroline will join her sister, sophomore Rachel Leonard, who was named to the MIAA All-Conference team for women’s lacrosse. Caroline is the fifth member of her family to sign to play college lacrosse.

## JUSTIN CLARK TAKES REINS AS HOCKEY COACH AT JPII

Pope John Paul II High School has announced that Justin Clark has accepted the position of head hockey coaching for the Knights.

Coach Clark will replace Pete Nieman who notified the school that he would be stepping down at the close of the 2016-2017 season. “Coach Nieman did an excellent job leading our hockey program for the past eight years and we are very appreciative of his service and commitment to JPII and our hockey program,” said John Dempsey, JPII athletic director.

Coach Clark served as an assistant to Coach Nieman for the past four years and comes with plenty of hockey experience. He was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, where he played competitive hockey for 12 years. He then attended the University of Kentucky where he was the goaltender for the Wildcats club team for four years. Upon graduating from UK, Coach Clark served one year as UK’s goalie coach before accepting a hockey coaching position at ShadySide Academy and

Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After relocating to the Middle Tennessee area, Coach Clark coached hockey for one year at Blackman High School in Rutherford County before joining the JPII staff in 2014.



Justin Clark

“I am very proud and honored for this opportunity to be the next head coach at Pope John Paul II. I am looking forward to building upon the rich tradition and successful history of this hockey program and I would like to thank Athletic Director John Dempsey and my mentor and friend Pete Nieman for entrusting me with this opportunity,” said Coach Clark.

He and his wife of four years, Margot, live in Gallatin.

# MR. MELCHER RETURNS TO JP II AS A TEACHER

Bryan Melcher, a 2013 graduate of Pope John Paul II High School, has come back to his alma mater to begin his teaching career.

"It's been good, familiar, like a homecoming," Mr. Melcher said of his return. "The first day it felt strange coming in the wrong door, not wearing a uniform. It feels pretty normal now."

Mr. Melcher joined the faculty at JP II in January to teach the Church History class to sophomores and the Leadership Class for the seniors who organize all the class retreats.

He is enjoying working with his students. "I love watching them .... come into themselves in the classroom and see these moments of learning happen. It's really exciting."

It wasn't too long ago that Mr. Melcher was where his students are now. All three of his older siblings also graduated from JP II and as a student at St. Joseph School in Madison, he was cast in three of JP II's spring musicals. "I knew where I was going (for high school), that's for sure," he said.

As a student, he jumped into the JP II community with both feet. "I was all over the place," said Mr. Melcher, who, as a JP II student, was involved in theater, sang in the choir, participated in Model UN and Youth In Government, and was elected governor at the statewide Youth In Government. He also made several mission trips including one to Bethlehem Farms.

"I definitely had fun," Mr. Melcher said. "There was a lot of talk when I was a student of raising these renaissance men and women. I really felt that JP II was a place that I could try out all these things and excel. I had every opportunity. I just had to take it."

After graduating from JP II, Mr. Melcher was looking for a college that was mission driven, similar to what he had found at JP II. "There's a higher

purpose to what we do here, forming them into the person God had in mind when he made them," Mr. Melcher said.

He found it at Saint Louis University, a Jesuit school, where he graduated with a degree in theology and political science. He graduated in December 2016, a semester early, thanks to "all those AP classes, right," he said smiling. The seven AP classes he took as a JP II student as well as the rest of the curriculum left him well prepared for college, Mr. Melcher said. "I think a lot of alumni have the experience of coming to college and feeling more than well prepared to study what's before us," he said. "Especially theology. I was very well prepared to study theology by my experience and classes at JP II."

And he was just as involved in campus life at Saint Louis as he was at JP II. He served as an intern at the Campus Ministry Office and at the Center for Service and Community Engagement, which connects students to service opportunities in the St. Louis area. He also was part of an improv group and sang in an a capella group.

When he went off to college Mr. Melcher was already thinking about being a teacher. He had kept in contact with Karen Phillips, JP II's Assistant Head of School and Dean of Studies, and Andrew Griffith, Assistant Dean of Studies and Social Studies Department Chair, to make sure he was on the right trajectory. When the theology position became open, they asked him to fill it.

"I thought the world of my teachers. I owe them a great debt for teaching me to think well," Mr. Melcher said. Now as a colleague, he is continuing the mentoring relationships he had established. "I get a lot of good advice from everybody who I ask," Mr. Melcher said. "Co teaching with Kat Morris has been really helpful for me coming in halfway through the year."

As a teacher, he finds JP II students have lots of interests and are encouraged to pursue them. "The JP II student is spread out. They do lots of different things," he said. "They can be on a sports team but also love their coding class and APUSH. They're trying to live into this renaissance ideal."



Brian Melcher

## FORENSICS TEAM COMPETES AT STATE TOURNAMENT

Four members of the Pope John Paul II High School forensics team competed in the state tournament this spring at Lausanne Collegiate School in Memphis.

Competitors included senior Jamaal Thompson, from left, and junior Oskar Rellava, who competed in the Pantomime category, and sophomores Esosa Osaitile and Abby McNair, who competed in Duo Interpretation. Freshman Chloe Suffridge attended in support.

